



*The Mission of New London Landmarks is to promote the preservation and development of the entire urban environment of New London, Connecticut, including significant individual structures, streetscapes, neighborhoods and open spaces.*

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Connecticut Commission  
on Culture & Tourism

March 24, 2009

To: Appropriations Committee  
Connecticut State Legislature

**RE: Support for the Community Investment Act**

While it is essential to be fiscally responsible in the financial crisis facing the State of Connecticut, it is also essential to consider priorities for the future. The preservation of open spaces, historic buildings and neighborhoods, sustaining the rich agricultural resources of this beautiful state and maintaining the Housing Finance Authority are critical to the future of the state and its citizens. They are all highly successful programs bringing revenue into the state coffers and preserving the quality of life in all of the state's 130 communities.

The Community Investment Act (CIA) funding is outside the budget, it collects a \$30 fee for each land records filing and divides these funds to four state agencies for 1) Historic Preservation 2) Affordable Housing 3) Open Space Preservation 4) Farmland Protection.

These programs put people to work, they are active in every community, and, most importantly, each program in its own way assures a future for the State of Connecticut that will be more productive, more in tune with the changes taking place in the 21st century, and increase the quality of life for every citizen.

New London Landmarks is one of several organizations in New London benefiting from the CIA. We strongly urge you to maintain this successful program. Robbing Peter to pay Paul has never been a successful strategy. Priorities remain essential in every government planning process. The Community Investment Act is a highly successful program and should remain high on a priority list for the future of the State of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

*Sandra K Chalk*

Sandra Kersten Chalk  
Executive Director

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